

## Onlooker's Diary

"JUST what we have hoped for, for years" was the comment of almost every Wycombe Wanderers supporter after hearing the Amateur Cup second round draw on Monday.

Prospect of a home tie with the Northern League's Bishop Auckland or Whitley Bay has provided a tremendous boost to morale in the Wycombe camp.

Most people would like to see Bishop Auckland, Amateur Cup finalists 18 times, and trophy winners nine times—the last occasion being when they beat Wycombe at Wembley in 1957—as visitors to Loakes Park on February 1.

For although most of the stars of the 1950's have disappeared, the Bishops' great tradition and cup-fighting spirit remain vividly in the minds of every amateur football follower. Two players in the 1957 side still remain—goalkeeper Harry Sharratt and wing-half Bob Thursby. And another well-known personality who has only just rejoined them is Ron Fryer, who played for

Wycombe for several seasons after moving South from Bishop Auckland.

He recently assisted Whitley Bay but rejoined the Bishops just before Christmas.

### North v. South

Wycombe's was only one of ten North v. South pairings in the second round draw. Three of their Isthmian League colleagues have to make long trips. Leytonstone travel to Spennymoor, and Woking, if they can win their first round replay against Dagenham, will visit Eastwood (Notts). Kingstonian make a trip to Liverpool to play Guinness Exports.

There will be two all-Isthmian clashes, with Bromley facing either Sutton or Oxford and Walthamstow meeting Tooting.

Clapton face a tough task at home to Barnet. St. Albans, recently strengthened by the introduction of former Tooting and England inside-forward Roy Agar, meet Whitey Town at home, while Wimbledon, the holders, after accounting for gallant Maidenhall in the last round, play another Berkshire side, Windsor and Eton.

Berkhamstead Town, in the first round of the Amateur Cup competition for the first time in their history, drew 2-2 with Harrow on Saturday. They will play either Wealdstone or Carshalton if they win the replay. For this game they decided to rely on the experience of former Wanderers forward Dennis Atkins.

After leaving Wycombe, Atkins went to Berkhamstead as captain and coach, but was seriously injured in a league game and was told it would be unwise to play again.

This season he played a couple of games for the Town reserves and then appeared in the Wanderers' 1956-57 side which played in the Wycombe

Hospital Cup match at Loakes Park in December.

### Social Side

"To encourage a good club atmosphere and foster a good spirit" — that's the aim of the newly-formed Wycombe Wanderers Sport and Social club, the club secretary, Mr. George Thompson tells me.

A committee of nine—three players, three club committee men and three supporters' club officials — have already started work. Just before Christmas they organised a party in the newly-decorated clubhouse at Loakes Park, and on Saturday, at West Wycombe Village Hall, they ran a highly successful New Year party and social.

The social club committee now want to arrange regular Thursday evening socials with wives and girl friends, and to play other social clubs in the district at darts and table-tennis. Clubs who would like to arrange an evening with the Wanderers are being asked to contact Mr. Thompson at 23A, Credenstreet, High Wycombe.

### Bedford's Progress

Young Dick Bedford, who left Wycombe Wanderers recently to join Aylesbury, tells me that his reason for resigning from the club was primarily to be assured of first team football.

Dick tells me that he had missed very few games for the Wanderers Reserves and had not been dropped by them this season.

But he added: "I was not given a chance in the first team in my normal position of inside-forward this season, and as I would rather play first team football, I decided to go to Aylesbury."

He went straight into the Aylesbury senior side and retained his place for last Saturday's game.

### Unlucky Patrick

One player who seems to have a justifiable grouse with Wycombe Wanderers is goalkeeper Phil Patrick.

He started off the season as first team goalkeeper, but lost his place after breaking an ankle. He fought his way back to the first team, only to suffer another injury against Tooting.

The following week he was again in the wars, breaking his nose against Bromley, but once again he fought back and regained his senior place.

But following Wycombe's defeat against Corinthian-Casuals he was dropped in favour of Dennis Syrett, although he was playing splendidly at the time. The official explanation was that Syrett was also playing brilliantly, and that it was opportune to bring him back against his old club, Oxford City.

The move seems justified now, with Wycombe's three successive victories, but it certainly seems hard on a goalkeeper of Patrick's calibre. He has decided that he would be willing to play for Wycombe senior side whenever required, but in the meantime he will play for Southampton Reserves.

## NO PROBLEMS FOR WHITLEY BAY

WHITLEY BAY, who will play in red and white, have no team problems for tomorrow and coach Bobby Owen, a former Lincoln and South Shields player, relies on the same side which met Bishop Auckland twice in the last round.

Here are pen pictures of the Whitley Bay players—

**Goal-keeper** — ROY COATES (28). Brother of Arnold Coates the former Crook Town international. Roy is in his second season with the club and his 6ft. 5 1/2 in., 16-stone frame dominates the goal area. He was formerly with Crook Town.

**Right-back** — JOHN TWADDLE (21). This quick tackling, hard-working player, in his third season with the club, is a product of the nursery side. He was capped for Northumberland this season.

**Left-back** — NEIL HETHERINGTON (21). A two-footed speedy player, formerly played for Newcastle United Reserves and Blyth Spartans.

**Right-half** — NEIL WALTON (25). Since being converted from inside-forward this season this 6ft. 2 in., long-striding player has been in tremendous form. Had an England trial three years ago and has many county caps.

**Centre-half** — BRIAN OAKLEY (26). Team skipper and kingpin of the defence. Now in his seventh season with the Bay, he is often selected for F.A. XI's.

**Left-half** — GEORGE RAMSHAW (24). Pint sized wing-half but a giant in his play. Authoritative and constructive and a real student in his approach. He had previous experience with Spennymoor.

**Right-wing** — JOHN ELLIOTT (22). A bearded player with a tremendous shot. He has played for Northumberland this season and was previously with Spennymoor.

**Inside-right** — BOB CAIN (20). Probably the biggest danger-man of the side. In his first season with the club, he is already being hailed as a future international.

**Centre-forward** — BILLY WRIGHT (20). A strong leader, superb in the air and able to take and give a knock. Capped for Northumberland this season.

**Inside-left** — KEN SLOAN (20). Schemer of the attack, he played for the England international youth side and then was signed by Wolves. He could not settle in Wolverhampton and returned to the north-east.

**Left-wing** — BOB GIDNEY (20). A ball player with a powerful shot in either foot. Another player who has graduated from the nursery side but has now become a name to be feared.

### NOW YOU KNOW

Wycombe Wanderers' game with Oxford City on Saturday was an 'all pay' affair because of an Isthmian League ruling that the home club must pay all the visiting team's expenses and share the remainder of the 'gate money', if the first game has to be replayed.

### READING GAME

Berks and Bucks annual challenge match against Reading will probably be played this season at Loakes Park later this season. Last year Reading won 3-1 at Elm Park.

# WANDERERS CONFIDENT ABOUT CUP PROSPECTS

## First - Ever Clash With Whitley Bay

A 'GIFT' GOAL only two minutes after the start of their first round replay decided that Whitley Bay — and not Bishop Auckland — would be the visitors to Loakes Park in a week's time, for the Amateur Cup second round tie.

Although they regret the loss of a chance for revenge against the once-mighty Bishops, Wycombe supporters will still be eager to see the side who in recent seasons have been challenging Crook Town as the 'Cock of the North'.

Wycombe Wanderers coach Don Welsh, who travelled up to the north-east to watch the replay between Whitley Bay and the Bishops, said his side would have "a tremendous task."

"Even in conditions which were against good football, the Whitley Bay players showed exceptional strength and determination which won the day over the better footballing side," he said.

Don said that although he was "quietly confident" of his team's chances, he was under no illusion about the Wanderers' stiff task. "But if we make the ball do the work, as we have been doing so well in recent weeks, I feel we must stand a great chance," he added.

### FIRST TIME

Whitley Bay have never met Wycombe before but their

secretary-coach Arthur Clark knows Loakes Park well. He was in charge at Crook when they played the Wanderers some seasons ago.

Wycombe have asked Whitley Bay if they will agree to play extra time if the scores should be level at the end of 90 minutes. Secretary Bill Hayer explained that if they had to travel north for the replay the club could well show a loss.

Few northern clubs have gates to compare with those in the south and, although Whitley Bay are almost assured of some financial return from their 600-mile round trip to Wycombe, the Wanderers might not if they had to make the return visit.

Wycombe, now unbeaten since December 21, are running into form just at the right time.

On Saturday they made this fact even plainer in taking a point from Walthamstow Avenue, although they were without captain Peter Royston and Len Worley.

For tomorrow's replayed Isthmian League game against Oxford, Royston returns, but Worley will not be risked. He is, however, certain to be fit for the Amateur Cup game.

### PRICES UP

Prices for Wycombe Wanderers' Amateur Cup second round tie have had to be increased to 2s. 6d. for ground admittance and to 4s. 6d. for the stand. This is normal procedure ordered by the F.A. for Amateur Cup-ties.

Tomorrow's Isthmian League game at Loakes Park against Oxford City will be an "all pay" game, which means that members and vice-presidents will have to pay the normal admittance prices. This is also because of an F.A. ruling for replayed league games.

WHITLEY BAY make the long trip to Loakes Park tomorrow no doubt cheered somewhat by Wycombe's team selection problems—and confident after their own run of success.

Since 1957 they have twice been runners-up in the Northern League, and they have not been out of the top five places in the table. In 1961 they won the Northumberland County Cup competition.

This season they have added to their playing strength and as a result are riding the crest of the wave. They play football hard and fast—as followers of Wimbledon, Hounslow and Hayes will no doubt testify. The Bay have played all these three clubs in the last few seasons.

The club have a history dating back well into the 19th century and were known as Whitley Bay Athletic until 1957, when they were reorganised as a company. They are now recognised as the senior amateur club in Northumberland.

### Rapid Progress

Progress has been rapid recently. After erecting new dressing rooms and a stand they are now getting down to the task of terracing some of their ground. Plans are also well ahead for a new clubhouse.

Whitley Bay officials have declined Wycombe's invitation to play extra time if necessary, but the Wanderers officials are hoping a return trip will not be necessary.

For this match prices have had to be raised. The charges will be: ground admission 2s. 6d., enclosure 1s. 6d., extra, stand 2s. extra.

Whitley Bay will be bringing nearly 200 supporters with them on the 600-mile round trip. At half-time the Wanderers have arranged for the band of the 299 Regiment of the Royal Artillery, Territorial Army, to give a display.

### New Signing

The news of Dave Thomas's resignation from Wycombe Wanderers this week coincided with the news of the arrival of another new signing, inside-forward Tony Williams.

Tony, formerly with Reading Reserves and Corinthian-Casuals, is a Flying Officer in the R.A.F. and has been posted to Halton. The former Wanderers winger Frank Smith, another R.A.F. man, heard of his posting and strongly recommended the club to sign him.

Wycombe, in fact, just beat several other clubs to his sign-

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nature. He should be playing for the reserve side next weekend.

### Badrick III

Pat Badrick, Wycombe Wanderers' only skipper ever to hold aloft the Amateur Cup, is by no means seriously ill in Stoke Mandeville Hospital this week. On Wednesday there was good news that he was showing slight improvement.

Pat, a great club man and talented centre-half, had his greatest moment of glory in 1931, when he led his side to their historic single-goal victory over Hayes in the Amateur Cup final at Highbury.